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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 001177

SIPDIS

NEA FOR FO; NSC FOR KUMAR

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [YE](#) [LE](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MFA ON ARAB LG MINISTERIAL; LEBANON; YEMEN

Classified By: Minister-counselor William R. Stewart Reasons: 1.4 (B) and (D)

- 1.(C) Key points: -- MFA Cabinet Advisor for Arab Affairs Mahmoud Afifi does not expect the Syrian, Qatari or Saudi foreign ministers to attend the Arab League ministerial.
- 2.(C) MFA Cabinet Advisor Mahmoud Afifi told us June 23 that he expects the Arab League ministerial of June 24 to focus almost exclusively on the Middle East peace efforts.
- 3.(C) Beyond Middle East peace efforts, Afifi expected the discussion to be muted, especially on intra-Arab disputes. He expected an anodyne report.
- 4.(C) Afifi said that Saad Hariri was in Cairo, and had seen FM Aboul Gheit, and was scheduled to see President Mubarak that day (June 23). "He is in a good mood."
- 5.(C) The major issue of contention, in Afifi's view, is the Hariri tribunal. Hizballah is very worried, he assessed, especially that the focus will be on the tribunal.
- 6.(C) Afifi believed that Hizballah and the opposition will take time to regroup, and will pester the majority, but not in any way that approach the Middle East peace efforts.
- 7.(C) Afifi expressed concern about the situation in Yemen. Al Qaeda is "flourishing," he said and gaining control of the mountain areas, and the Saudis are not doing enough.
- 8.(C) Afifi said that President Mubarak and FM Aboul Gheit are in touch with the Yemenis, as well as the Saudis, over the emerging crisis. He said the Saudis are not doing enough.